

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

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DRAFTED BY S/NM:HRWELLMAN:BB

5/28/74 EXT. 28692

APPROVED BY S/NM:HRWELLMAN

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R 281627Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO NEW DELHI GENEVA FROM
KATHMANDU 24 MAY 74:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 2104

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, NP

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS

REF: KATHMANDU 2004

1. UNDP RESIDENT REP JACOB JOURY MET WITH FINANCE SECRETARY
B.B. PRADHAN MAY 21 TO DISCUSS BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES, INCLUDING
NARCOTICS, PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE FROM NEPAL ON LEAVE AND CONSULTA-
TIONS IN NEW YORK. FOLLOWING MEETING, JOURY GAVE US A FILL IN
AS HE HAD PROMISED IN EARLIER REFTEL MEETING.

2. JOURY TOLD US THAT PRADHAN WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT NARCOTICS
LEGISLATION WOULD BE PASSED IN SUMMER SESSION OF NATIONAL
PANCHAYAT. HE SAID THAT GON WOULD HAVE TO ADDRESS PROBLEM OF
HOW TO HANDLE PROHIBITION ON CULTIVATION, AND SUGGESTED THAT SOME
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PHASING PROVISIONS WOULD BE NECESSARY. PRAHDAN, HOWEVER, WAS NOT

SPECIFIC AS TO WHETHER PHASING PROVISION WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BEFORE LEGISLATION INTRODUCED, OR WHETHER IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASING REGULATIONS COULD FOLLOW PASSAGE OF BASIC LEGISLATION. PRADHAN DID NOT PROMISE BUT SAID HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE COPY OF REVISED DRAFT OF LEGISLATION TO UNDP BEFORE IT PRESENTED TO NATIONAL PANCHAYAT.

3. IN CONVERSATION ON SAME DAY, AID DIRECTOR IDE WAS TOLD BY STATE MINISTER OF FINANCE BHEKH THJLA THAT HE THOUGHT U.S. WOULD BE TARGET OF CRITICISM DURING NATIONAL PANCHAYAT DISCUSSION OF NARCOTICS ISSUE. HE EXPECTED SOME GON OFFICIALS WOULD MAKE ARGUMENT THAT NARCOTICS WAS NOT AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE IN NEPAL SINCE U.S. WAS ONLY COUNTRY "MAKING ANY NOISE" ABOUT PROBLEM, AND THERE WOULD THEREFORE BE IMPRESSION THAT ANY ACTION TAKEN BY GON WOULD BE RESULT OF YIELDING TO U.S.

4. THAPA PERSONALLY THOUGHT THAT NARCOTICS ISSUE HAD BECOME A POLITICAL HOT POTATO BECAUSE GOVERNMENT UNDER FORMER PRIME MINISTER BISTA HAD TAKEN ACTION WITHOUT ADEQUATE STUDY AND WITHOUT REALIZING CONSEQUENCES. RESULT WAS THAT GON HAD LOST REVENUES PROVIDED BY PREVIOUS LICENSING PROCEDURES, NOTHING HAD YET BEEN FOUND TO REPLACE THESE REVENUES, AND GOVERNMENT DID NOT EVEN HAVE WHATEVER SATISFACTION AND INTERNATIONAL BENEFITS MIGHT ACCRUE FROM HAVING BASIC NARCOTICS LEGISLATION ON BOOKS.

5. DURING RECENT INHOUSE DISCUSSIONS ON NARCOTICS WE HAVE CONSIDERED PROS AND CONS OF SUGGESTING TO OTHER EMBASSIES THAT THEY TAKE UP NARCOTICS LEGISLATION QUESTION WITH GON. WITH THAPA'S COMMENTS IN MIND, WE NOW INTEND ENLIST ON SELECTIVE BASIS AND IN LOW KEY MANNER SUPPORT FROM SOME OTHER EMBASSIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, AMBASSADOR TOOK ADVANTAGE OF CALL MAY 23 BY NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS NARCOTICS SITUATION AND TO POINT OUT IMPORTANCE OF PERSUADING GON TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION, PARTICULARLY IN FIELD OF BASIC LEGISLATION. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT GON SHOULD BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO ARGUMENT THAT FAILURE TO ACT ON NARCOTICS LEGISLATION AND TO MODIFY PERMISSIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS DRUGS WOULD RECEIVE ATTENTION BY PRESS AT TIME OF CORONATION, LENDING SOUR NOTE TO INTERNATIONAL PRESS COVERAGE OF CORONATION. BRITISH AMBASSADOR REACTED POSITIVELY AND WE HOPE HE WILL TAKE QUESTION UP WITH GON. HE THOUGHT TIE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH PRESS COVERAGE AT TIME OF CORONATION COULD PROVE EFFECTIVE. CARGO UNQUOTE RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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